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Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History

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Book Reviews

Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History, edited by Helen Hornbeck Tanner, cartography by Miklos Pinther. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987. xv, 224 pp. Index, bibliography, maps, illustrations. \$75.00 cloth, \$29.95 paper.

Scholars who work in native American history have been looking forward for some time to the publication of the *Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History*. The wait was worth it. General editor Helen Hornbeck Tanner, her distinguished crew of associate editors, and cartographer Miklos Pinther have together produced a historical atlas of rare quality, both in its excellent maps and in its text. Readers with a special interest in the Great Lakes region (roughly bounded by the Mississippi, Ohio, and Hudson rivers and extending north into southern Ontario and southwestern Quebec) will be particularly pleased, but students of the native history of Iowa will find that the *Atlas* has much to offer them as well.

Although Iowa is on the western extremity of the *Atlas's* area of prime concern, its Indian history is well represented. One can trace the southwestward movement of the Sauks and Mesquakies from the Green Bay/Lake Winnebago region of eastern Wisconsin across the Mississippi and ultimately (for the Mesquakies) to their current home in Tama County. This migration, caused partly by the attraction of the western country but largely by the pressures of the growing numbers of expansionist Europeans and Anglo-Americans, is visibly represented by a series of maps. The reader can, therefore, locate individual Sauk and Mesquakie towns at specific locations at different moments in time. The Winnebagoes, some of the eastern Sioux bands, and the Ioways were also important in Iowa history. The *Atlas* includes them in its maps, and the reader can locate their village sites over time as well.

Written descriptions accompany the maps, some of which are so thoughtful and complete as to be small interpretive essays on specific subjects. The text that accompanies the map on the Black Hawk War, for example, is a marvelous mini-history of the Sauks which puts that conflict into its proper context.

In addition to these specific maps, the *Atlas* includes several general maps that depict vegetation, animal ranges, early prehistoric sites, land cessions, reservations, and epidemics. The epidemic map, which

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covers the period from 1630 to 1880, shows with dramatic clarity how smallpox, measles, cholera, and other European diseases swept through the Great Lakes region. This map shows that smallpox followed the Mesquakies west, striking them at Lake Winnebago in 1717, then on the headwaters of the Wisconsin River, and finally in their villages in eastern Iowa in 1762 and 1835. The text accompanying this map describes each epidemic, and supplies, when known, estimates of mortality.

The *Atlas* is such a spectacular piece of work that no short review can do it justice. I can only suggest that anyone interested in native American history, even if their primary focus lies outside the Great Lakes region, should look at it. Those whose field of study lies within the region must own a copy. The maps, the text, and the excellent bibliography make it indispensable. Fortunately, the University of Oklahoma Press, which outdid itself in the production of this splendid volume, has recently issued it in an affordable paperback edition.

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

MICHAEL D. GREEN

Soldiers West: Biographies from the Military Frontier, edited by Paul A. Hutton. Introduction by Robert M. Utley. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1987. xiii, 276 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$19.95 cloth, \$9.95 paper.

I Married a Soldier, by Lydia S. Lane. Introduction by Darlis A. Miller. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1987. 193 pp. \$9.95 paper.

The United States Army and its role in the Indian wars have fascinated people for years. Many of the images, such as cavalry charges with blue-clad riders attacking Indians, have been perpetuated in print and in the visual arts. More recently some have replaced these stereotypes with others of a cruel army destroying the native Americans' way of life. Historical reality has often received little attention. These two books, in their own ways, suggest that the army was a society of men and women with their own frustrations, politics, triumphs, and tragedies.

The more substantive of the two works is Paul Hutton's collection of fourteen biographical essays written by leading scholars and a thought-provoking introductory essay by Robert Utley. In the introduction, Hutton presents a rationale for the work when he suggests that the officers are representative of the different types that served on the plains, especially in the post-Civil War era. Robert Utley's intro-

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